

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 9, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 9, 2008. Applicants request entry and consideration of the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

Claims 13-32 are currently pending in the application.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS:

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hlatky (WO 01/81436).

Hlatky discloses a system wherein the ionic liquid is used as a solvent and is thus used in large amounts with respect to the metallocene catalyst component. (See Hlatky at page 2, lines 17-27). Furthermore, Hlatky states that a catalyst support “may be undesirable for practicing the process of the invention.” (page 7, lines 17-19). Hlatky states that the “polymerization is performed in the presence of an ionic liquid.” (page 6, line 3).

The presently claimed catalyst system is not obvious from Hlatky because the ionic liquid and the metallocene component are mixed in stoichiometric or nearly stoichiometric amounts, followed by the precipitation of grains of active catalyst with an apolar non-coordinating solvent, such as, for example, n-heptane. The resulting supported catalyst system is thus created in situ by the precipitation of the ionic liquid/metallocene component mixture. If the ionic liquid is used in large excess in the present system, it deactivates the catalyst. Therefore, Applicants respectfully argue that Hlatky does not teach, show, or suggest the precipitation of the ionic liquid/metallocene component mixture in order to create solid grains of active catalyst. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claims.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the reference cited in the Office Action does not teach, show, or suggest the claimed features. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

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Respectfully submitted,



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